

DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission

2015-16 Regular Season Waterfowl Hunting

In accordance with the emergency provisions of R.S. 49:953 of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following Emergency Rule.

The hunting season for ducks, coots and geese during the 2015-2016 hunting season shall be as follows:

Ducks and Coots: 60 days

Coastal Zone: November 7 - Dec. 6
December 19 - January 17
West Zone: November 14 - December 6
December 19 - January 24
East Zone: November 21 - December 6
(Including December 19 - January 31
Catahoula Lake)

Youth Waterfowl Weekend: October 31 and November 1 in the Coastal Zone, Nov. 7 and Jan. 30 in the West Zone, November 14 and Feb. 6 in East Zone.

Daily Bag Limits: The daily bag limit on ducks is 6 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), 2 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, 1 black duck, 3 wood ducks, 3 scaup, 2 redheads, and 2 pintails.

Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers. The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit. The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is three times the daily bag limit.

Geese:

Light Geese (Snow, Blue and Ross') and White-Fronted Geese

Coastal Zone: November 7 - December 6
(81 days) December 19 - February 7
West Zone: November 7 - December 6
(81 days) December 19 - February 7
East Zone: November 7 - December 6
(81 days) December 19 - February 7
Daily bag limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'):

20

Possession limit on light geese (snow, blue and Ross'): None

Daily limit on white-fronted geese: 2

Possession limit on white-fronted geese: 6

Canada Geese: Closed in the Area Described Below

Coastal Zone: November 7 - December 6
(74 days) December 19 - January 31
West Zone: November 14 - December 6
(67 days) December 19 - January 31
East Zone: November 7 - December 6
(74 days) December 19 - January 31
Daily limit on Canada geese: 1 per day
Possession limit on Canada geese: 3

The Canada goose season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows: Beginning at the Texas state line, proceeding east along Hwy. 82 to the Calcasieu Ship

Channel, then north along the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Canal, then east along the Intracoastal Canal to its juncture with LA Hwy. 82, then south along LA Hwy. 82 to its juncture with Parish Road 3147, then south and east along Parish Road 3147 to Freshwater Bayou Canal, then south to the Gulf of Mexico, then west along the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico to the Texas state line, then north to the point of beginning at LA Hwy. 82. Open waters of Lake Arthur and the Mermentau River, from the Hwy 14 bridge southward, will also be closed to Canada goose hunting.

Conservation Order for Light Geese (Snow, Blue and Ross's):

Coastal Zone: December 7 - December 18
February 8 - March 6
West Zone: December 7 - December 18
February 8 - March 6
East Zone: December 7 - December 18
February 8 - March 6

Only snow, blue and Ross's geese may be taken under the terms of the conservation order, which allows the use of electronic calls and unplugged shotguns and eliminates the daily bag and possession limits. During the conservation order, shooting hours begins one-half hour before sunrise and extends until one-half hour after sunset.

Rails: November 7 - December 30

King and Clapper: Daily bag limit 15 in the aggregate, Possession 45.

Sora and Virginia: Daily bag 25 in the aggregate and possession 75.

Gallinules: November 7 - December 30

Daily bag limit 15, Possession limit 45

Snipe:

Coastal Zone: November 2 - December 6
December 19 - February 28
West Zone: November 2 - December 6
December 19 - February 28
East Zone: November 2 - December 6
December 19 - February 28

Daily bag limit 8, Possession limit 24

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except at the Spanish Lake Recreation Area in Iberia Parish where shooting hours, including the conservation order, end at 2 p.m.

Extended Falconry Seasons for Rails and Gallinules:

Statewide: November 2 - January 31
(16 days of the total season lengths for rails, gallinules and extended falconry seasons were used during the September teal season.)

Extended Falconry Seasons for Ducks:

Coastal Zone: November 2 - January 31
West Zone: November 2 - January 31
East Zone: November 3 - January 31

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours will become effective November 1, 2015 and extend through one-half hour after sunset on March 1, 2016.

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Chairman